

Claim Amendments

Claim 1. (cancelled)

Claim 2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (cancelled)

Claim 4. (previously presented)

The method of claim 15 further characterized by and including the step of providing a coating of reflective material over at least some of the interior surface of the furnace.

Claim 5. (cancelled)

Claim 6. (previously presented)

The method of claim 15 further including the step of providing a ceramic or other high melting point support structure to support the tool steel workpiece.

Claim 7. (previously presented)

The method of claim 15 further including the step of providing an air atmosphere in the furnace.

Claim 8. (previously presented)

The method of claim 15 further including the step of providing a non-air environment in the furnace.

Claim 9. (previously presented)

The method of claim 15 further including the step of providing a vacuum environment in the furnace.

Claim 10. (withdrawn)

In a system for heat treating tool steel,
a furnace,
support structure for tool steel workpieces to be heat treated in the furnace, and
a source of infrared heat energy arranged within the furnace to direct infrared heat energy against tool steel workpieces in the furnace.

Claim 11. (withdrawn)

The tool steel heat treat system of claim 10 further characterized in that the source of infrared heat energy is tungsten halogen lamp means.

Claim 12. (withdrawn)

The tool steel heat treat system of claim 11 further including
a reflective coating on the interior of the furnace over at least some of said interior surface which the infrared heat energy is exposed to.

Claim 13. (withdrawn)

The tool steel heat treat system of claim 12 further characterized in that the coating is formed from one or more of the metals in the group consisting of gold, silver and aluminum.

Claim 14. (withdrawn)

The tool steel heat treat system of claim 11 further including

ceramic or other high melting point support structure to support the tool steel workpiece in the furnace.

Claim 15. (previously presented)

In a method of heat treating bars, blocks and other tool steel workpieces the steps of providing a heat treatment furnace of a size suitable to receive a tool steel workpiece to be heat treated,

providing a heat source in the interior of the furnace consisting of a source of infrared heat energy,

subjecting the tool steel workpiece to heat treatment by exposing said tool steel workpiece to infrared heat energy from the infrared heat energy source and

maintaining said tool steel workpiece stationary during subjection of the workpiece to heat treatment from the infrared energy source.

Claim 16. (previously presented)

In a method of heat treating bar, block and other tool steel workpieces the steps of providing a heat treatment furnace of a size suitable to receive a tool steel workpiece to be heat treated,

providing a source of infrared heat energy in the interior of the furnace consisting of tungsten halogen lamp means, subjecting the tool steel workpiece to heat treatment by exposing said tool steel workpiece to infrared heat energy from the tungsten halogen lamp means and

maintaining said tool steel workpiece stationary during subjection of the workpiece

to heat treatment from the infrared energy source.

Claim 17. (previously presented)

The method of claim 16 further including the step of
generating a temperature of up to 5000°F in a tool steel workpiece located in close
proximity thereto from the tungsten halogen lamp means.

Claim 18. (cancelled)

Claim 19. (previously presented)

In a method of heat treating a tool steel workpiece the steps of
providing a heat source in the interior of a furnace of a size suitable to receive a tool
steel workpiece to be heat treated,
providing a coating of reflective material selected from the group consisting of gold,
silver and aluminum over at least some of the interior surface of the furnace, and
subjecting the tool steel workpiece to heat treatment by exposing said tool steel
workpiece to infrared heat energy from an infrared heat energy source.

Remarks

By this amendment we believe we have placed the application in condition for immediate allowance in compliance with "Revised Amendment Practice: 37 CFR 1.121 Changed" as set forth in the flyer "Rev. 3 (07/24/03)". We comment that this application has had quite a long pendency and hence allowance at the Examiner's early convenience is respectfully requested.

We draw the Examiner's attention that, to our knowledge, the Patent Office file of this application is in the process of being returned to TC 1700 and Group Art Unit 1742 from the BPA&I and hence it is conceivable that this Amendment will reach Group Art Unit 1742 before the physical PTO file does. Anything the Examiner can do to expedite assembly of this Amendment to the physical file would be greatly appreciated. For the Examiner's convenience and possible use we mention that the number at the BPA&I was 2001-0359.

By a separate submission filed simultaneously herewith and entitled "Letter Submitting Balance of 37 CFR 1.20(d) Fee" we are submitting a \$10 check for said balance.

We earlier filed a Letter transmitting a check for a 37 CFR 1.20(d) fee at the BPA&I but from a January 28, 2005 telephone conference with Administrator Fineberg at the BPA&I we were informed (1) that the BPA&I had no facility for accepting fees and (2) the tendered fee, though acknowledged to be received on January 21, 2005 by the Patent Office, would be sent to the appropriate location for processing, which we believe to be the Technical Center.

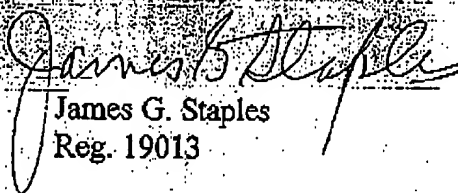
In the event this submission, together with the accompanying Letter is not complete in any respect, the Examiner is requested to inform the applicant at his early convenience and provide a grace period of 20 days or more to enable applicant to attend to any outstanding matters.

And finally we acknowledge with appreciation the courteous telephone discussion with Examiner Wyszomierski on which the current status of this application was discussed and from which we understood that upon filing of the terminal disclaimer the double patenting rejection would be overcome and, since that was the only issue in the application (except for the submission of a clean set of claims which has herewith been attended to), the application would be allowed.

Please know we are available during office hours in person or by voice mail should our participation be helpful to the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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